

**Notes from URGWOM Steering Committee Meeting;
August 8, 2002; 10:00 AM; Corps of Engineers Conference Room,
Albuquerque**

In Attendance:

Ellen Dietrich, SAIC/Corps

Gail Stockton, Corps

Conrad Keyes, Jr., Consultant to Corps

Jack Veenhuis, USGS

Charles Lujan, Pueblo of San Juan

Dave Wilkins, USGS

Bill Miller, WJM Engineering, Inc./Corps

- ❖ Gail Stockton opened the meeting and turned it over to Dave Wilkins to review the Tech Team activities and model development progress. The list of activities and issues are appended to these notes. A brief summary of questions and discussion is included below.
 - The Tech Team will be ready for initial testing of the Planning Model when the rules have been modified.
 - The Endangered Species Act (ESA) model runs involve the USFWS. This is an in-house application of the Planning Model.
 - **Question:** Have you accounted for sediment inflow and resulting reduced capacity of reservoirs in the Planning Model?
 - The Planning Model accounts for this by using the equations that are currently applied to estimate sediment increases, but only for Corps reservoirs.
 - Gail reported on the Hydrologic Modeling Conference in Las Vegas, Nevada, that she and Mark Yuska attended.
 - The URGWOM demonstrations, posters on URGWOM and URGWOPS, and a display on MMS (Modular Modeling System) were located in adjacent booths and attracted interest.
 - They got many new ideas to integrate tools for managing water operations.
 - Bill Miller provided some additional explanation on the request for feedback from the engineer-advisors to gain approval to do some Rio Grande Compact estimated operations in the Planning Model.
 - Bill received an e-mail from Herman Settemeyer (Texas) with the comment that Texas will utilize all 790,000 acre-feet per Compact requirements.
 - Bill will discuss comments on the Planning Model with Steve Vandiver (Colorado) at the Technical Review Committee meeting.
 - The URGWOM Technical Team asked what additional refinements are planned to be added to URGWOM by the Steering Committee that will involve Tech Team work. The Committee discussed the following.
 - MMS integration
 - Testing and debugging of Planning Model
 - Extending MMS rainfall data below Cochiti
 - Planning training of URGWOM by cooperating agencies and outside testers.

- Development of a tutorial for testing phase.
- Updating the RiverWare information that is on the URGWOM web site. The new price information is on a list that Gail has.
- ❖ Bill updated the group on the status of the QA/QC Plan amendment.
 - On July 10, he e-mailed copies of the final plan to all Steering Committee members, and received no comments in return.
 - The IBWC, U.S. Section, has already approved and signed the plan.
 - Gail Stockton has signed the plan for the Corps, and Dave Wilkins signed for the USGS.
 - Gail will take the plan to Art Martinez (BIA), Cyndie Abeyta (USFWS), and Steve Bowser (USBR) for their signatures, at which time the plan will be approved by all cooperating agencies.
- ❖ Technical Review Committee planning is proceeding for the August 22 meeting. The newsletter incorrectly listed the meeting start time as 8:30 a.m. but it will begin at 9:00 a.m.
 - The Tech Team is working on the presentations and finalizing the agenda.
 - Work is still needed on the physical accounting model.
 - Plans will be reviewed at the next Tech Team staff meeting on Tuesday.
- ❖ Work is continuing on development of HDB.
- ❖ Other items
 - Secretary Maggiore of NM Environment Department and Julie Tsatsaros of the NMED Surface Water Quality Bureau (on URGWOPS technical team) will be leaving New Mexico for other jobs.
 - The Texas Natural Resources Conservation Commission (TNRCC) is changing its name beginning September 1.
 - The City of Albuquerque Drinking Water EIS comment period has been extended until September 12.
 - Conrad Keyes reported that the NM Environment Department is asking the NM Water Quality Control Commission for a change of water quality standards to accept treated water discharge from oil and gas well development.
 - Charlie Lujan reported that the Pueblo of San Juan has rehired Dennis Oyenque to represent the Pueblo on the URGWOPS Cultural Resources Technical Team.
 - The URGWOM newsletter mailing will be completed by August 9.
 - Doug Boyle of the Desert Research Institute is coming to meet with the URGWOM Tech Team to discuss the use of MMS and its updates. Jack Veenhuis reported that the MMS model for the Rio Chama has been recalibrated to correct some low runoff predictions during a low water year.
- ❖ The next meeting of the URGWOM Steering Committee will be held on Thursday, September 12 at 10:00 a.m. at the Corps in Albuquerque.

STATUS OF URGWOM TECH TEAM ACTIVITIES

People:

- Mark Yuska is out a fair amount, finishing the Leadership Program this month.

Activities:

- Have done all the gw/sw interaction estimates that available data will allow.
- Stripped accounts from the Water Ops model and established release types and destination for supplies, as a first step in developing the Planning Model.
- Set up data and model for ESA runs (not trivial). Good for testing model and rules.
- Input 1 foot interval EAC tables in planning model.
- Preparing for Technical Review Meeting.
- Finalizing Version 2.0 of WaterOps and Account models (and associated dmi control files for new method slots). Making sure methods and rules are working properly.
- Prepared for and did a Water Operations Model demo and URGWOM presentation at Hydrologic Modeling Conference.

Meetings:

- Held Technical Team meetings 7/24 and 8/6/02.
- 7/28 thru 8/1/02 Gail & Mark - Attendance/Presentation/Poster at Hydrologic Modeling Conference, Las Vegas, NV, networked with USBR, USGS, Corps, Colorado, others...
- 7/11/02 Mark met with Pete Balleau of Balleau Groundwater, Inc. Talked about the usability of URGWOM to determine effects of alternative storage schemes on the Jemez.
- There's an URGWOPS workshop this afternoon here. Don Gallegos will attend and speak for URGWOM.
- August 22nd; the big Technical Review Meeting, 8:30am here.
- November 14th, the Rules Documentation Presentation, 8:30am here.
- Brad Vickers will be here 9/9 – 9/13/02 to work on Planning Model Rules and Rules Document with us.

Issues:

- We have heard from Colorado and Texas on approval to do some Rio Grande Compact estimated operations in the Planning Model. They generally approve, however we are still in discussion (today is reply deadline!)
- The Planning Model needs to be in a first draft usable state by the end-of-year. This will require a concerted effort, particularly in re-development of the Water Operations Rules to fit it.
- Documentation delivery, particularly the rules, could be in jeopardy if all efforts are on Planning Model.
- Dave Wilkins, our USGS member and modeler will go on half-time, if Middle Valley data collection proposal is funded, (or less) at the end of the calendar year. We need to continue staffing and work. Doug McAda of USGS is available at approximately 1/3 time, but from his USGS office. What are our other options?